Harmonization Of the Accounts of the Resurrection

by Fr Lawrence Farley

The First Sunday

Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1-4; Luke 24:1-3; John 20:1

Mary Magdalene and the other Myrrhbearers leave from their separate abodes (at separate times?) by prior arrangement, to converge on the Tomb on the morning of the first day.

John 20:2

Mary Magdalene arrives first, before the others, finds the Tomb empty, and departs to find Peter and John.

Matt. 28:5-7

Meanwhile, the other Myrrhbearers arrive at the Tomb, find it empty and are greeting by the angels.

Matt. 28:8; Mark 16:8; Luke 24:9

The women also flee to tell the apostles. They find them and tell the news.

John 20:3-9

Mary Magdalene, Peter and John run to the Tomb.

John 20:10

Peter and John find the Tomb empty and leave.

John 20:11-17

Mary Magdalene remains to grieve, meets the risen Lord.

John 20:18

She runs to tell the other apostles as well.

Luke 24:10-11

The apostles do not believe the women's story.

I Cor. 15:5; see Luke 24:34

Christ appears to Simon Peter.

Matt. 28:9-10

Christ appears to the women.

Luke 24:13-35

Christ appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23; I Cor. 15:5

Christ appears to the Twelve (i.e. the Ten) in the evening, in Jerusalem.

Second Sunday

John 20:26-29

Christ again appears to the apostles and Thomas with them.

Later Still

John 21:1-22

The third appearance of Christ to His disciples in Galilee.

Matt. 28:16-20; I Cor. 15:6

Christ appears to a large crowd of more than five hundred disciples.

I Cor. 15:7

Christ appears to James.

Luke 24:44-49; I Cor. 15:7

Christ appears to all the Seventy apostles in Jerusalem.

The above listing is not exhaustive of course. The Lord appeared many times to His disciples during the forty-day period after His Resurrection (Acts 1:3). But the appearances mentioned in the Gospels are not incapable of harmonization.

From First and Second Corinthians – Straight From the Heart by Lawrence R. Farley, pp. 169-171.